

Feb 11, 2020

Re: 50 ac. CE (proposed) West of Troy

I would like to extend my support for the proposed Conservation Easement on the 50 acre parcel along the Kootenai River, west of Troy along side US Hwy 2.

I know it as the Leighty property, but good place for a wildlife corridor/crossing. I've see multiple species X-ing Hwy 2 there. Too bad the railroad is on the other side of the Kootenai River!! I think it's single track now, so that helps.

Thank you...

Pat Shui

Troy, MT 59935



Lynn Hancock
John Hancock
Yaak Shore Acres
49 Cedars Dr
Troy, MT 59935

February 9, 2020

MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Attn: Steve Burton

We are in favor of the Wild
River Easement for the roughly
50 acres northwest of Troy
bordered by US 2 & the
Kootenai River.

We want the site protected
from future residential or
commercial development & to
allow public access & movement
of wildlife. Keep it wild!

Thank you.

Sincerely,
John & Lynn Hancock

From: [Tempel, Kris](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: FW: Comment Rec"d: Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 9:54:00 AM

From: Neil Duram <neil.duram@mtleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 10:18 PM
To: Burton, Stevie <Stevie.Burton@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: FWP News: Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment

Just what Lincoln County needs.
Take more land off our tax base. No thanks.
Neil Duram

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tempel, Kris](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Conservation Easement
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 9:55:00 AM

From: Charles Wulf <charleswulf599@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 8:43 AM
To: Burton, Stevie <Stevie.Burton@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Conservation Easement

Dear Stevie Burton

In regard to the proposed easement along Kootenai River, west of Troy, MT, I'm in favor of this easement, instead of a housing or business development.

It's troubling to me that hunting will be omitted from this plan. One could see this as a guide to future and existing easements in Montana's future.

Respectfully,

Charles Wulf
P.O. Box 732
Libby, MT 59923

charleswulf599@gmail.com

From: [Tempel, Kris](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Kootenai valleys cons. easement
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 9:54:00 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Peter Leusch <festus@wildrockies.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 7:52 PM
To: Burton, Stevie <Stevie.Burton@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kootenai valleys cons. easement

Hi Stevie,

I am writing in support of your effort to work with Vital Ground on the Kootenai river conservation easement. I have spent a lot of time in that area and also have spent time working with folks from Vital Ground. Sounds like a great partnership and I will go on record as wholeheartedly supporting the proposal. Thanks for your hard work, let me know if you want more details.....

Peter Leusch

4575 Old Hwy. 2

Troy, MT 59935

From: [Tempel, Kris](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Wild River Conservation
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 9:55:00 AM

From: Peggy <peggy@brewmoe.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 9:42 AM
To: Burton, Stevie <Stevie.Burton@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wild River Conservation

I am in favor of the conservation easement at Wild River. We need to protect more and more land from development!

Please continue to acquire land and keep our grizzlies and other wildlife safe on the much need land so they can roam safely.

Allowing Vital Ground to manage and protect this easement is the only way to go!

Thank you.

*Peggy Brewer
Bigfork MT*

From: [Tempel, Kris](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] easement
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 9:55:00 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Jarratt Price <jarratt1@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 12:20 PM
To: Burton, Stevie <Stevie.Burton@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] easement

Stevie,

I am very much for the FWP proposal to purchase a conservation easement from Vital Ground.

Jarratt Price
973 Night Hawk Lane
Troy, MT 59935
(Yaak)

From: [Tempel, Kris](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: FW: kootenai conservation easment
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 9:54:00 AM

From: jon bush <jbushmc600@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 12:16 PM
To: Burton, Stevie <Stevie.Burton@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] kootenai conservation easment

SIR; I am disconcerted by your collaboration with The Vital Ground Foundation. they are a wealthy, in and out of state, liberal, obstructionist group furthering an agenda of social engineering that happens to include the taking of private property rights. when big money takes private property with their deep pockets and sells it to FWP for (wolf, bear, lynx, bull trout)....PROGRAMS, the property goes off the tax rolls and the sportsman's license dollars pay the bill, the fiasco turns against the very folks funding it. I do not want my exponentially increasing license dollars funding this project (the taking of private property).

an agency in charge of "managing game", that introduces Canadian wolves for bio-diversity (but really to generate income for FWP) is suspect in its motives.

FWP's new licensing changes are a lose-lose for sportsmen. it is also very lame and greedy to assume that new regs will allow folks to buy MORE wolf tags.

who wants a dead dog ? besides, wolf tags come 20 to the box.

we are overrun with wolves. I live with the horrid things. I am not a "town clown" or an armchair enviro.

things are not going so well with our moose populations etc, etc, etc.

I would like to recommend scrapping the Kootenai conservation easement.

thank you, jon bush (libby)

From: campbell.fuqua@gmail.com
To: [Burton, Stevie](#); [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment
Date: Sunday, February 16, 2020 1:45:39 PM

We are 100% in favor of this proposal. We are well familiar with the fine work the Vital Ground Foundation has done to protect grizzly bears in Montana, and the Cabinet Yaak population is in special need of help. We are also familiar with the parcel in question, and would be thrilled to see it preserved as a wildlife corridor, in preference to yet another subdivision along the river. Sincerely, Mary Campbell and Pam Fuqua

This e-mail was generated from the 'Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.

From: mary.sarumi@gmail.com
To: [Burton, Stevie](#); [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 4:56:14 AM

I support the conservation easement to protect important wildlife habitat.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.

From: birdscatsdogs.ac@gmail.com
To: [Burton, Stevie](#); [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 1:32:13 AM

I fully support this easement, please take note that when you do something in support of wildlife people will encourage you.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.

From: Susan_lefler@yahoo.com
To: [Burton, Stevie](#); [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment
Date: Sunday, February 2, 2020 11:59:23 PM

I support this conservation easement!!!

This e-mail was generated from the 'Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.

From: cferendo@hotmail.com
To: [Burton, Stevie](#); [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment
Date: Sunday, February 2, 2020 7:02:39 PM

I support the conservation easement to protect important wildlife habitat.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.

From: judithhutchins9@gmail.com
To: [Burton, Stevie](#); [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment
Date: Sunday, February 2, 2020 6:06:11 PM

I support the conservation easment

This e-mail was generated from the 'Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.

From: Carlyest@gmail.com
To: [Burton, Stevie](#); [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment
Date: Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:09:05 AM

The easement would protect the area from future development. Wild land cannot defend itself and developers are concerned with short term profits above all. Take action to protect Montanan?s quality of life and the wildlife we will hopefully enjoy for generations.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.

From: 3blackdog9@gmail.com
To: [Burton, Stevie](#); [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment
Date: Thursday, February 13, 2020 2:06:06 PM

I totally support this and encourage the Commission to proceed on implementation asap.

On behalf of birders, I thank you.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.

From: Frankmitzi@gmail.com
To: [Burton, Stevie](#); [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment
Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 5:51:30 AM

I support this proposal to ensure this area is protected for fish and wildlife.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.

From: Deborahlinwilliamson@gmail.com
To: [Burton, Stevie](#); [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 7:14:17 PM

Definitely support the conservation easement!

This e-mail was generated from the 'Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.

From: barbarafred50@yahoo.co.uk
To: [Burton, Stevie](#); [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 3:05:48 PM

Anything that helps to protect our dwindling wildlife is a bonus and something many will want to support, if any help can also protect the grizzlies that would be amazing
Thank you

This e-mail was generated from the 'Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.

From: babzline@att.net
To: [Burton, Stevie](#); [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 9:40:15 AM

When are we going to wake up to the facts that our environment feeds, clothes and keeps us alive! I wholeheartedly support the conservation easement to protect important wildlife habitat and set an example for the rest of the country and the world! Are we not going to be pioneers when it comes to maintaining a healthy environment for all concerned?

This e-mail was generated from the 'Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.

From: michellehmackenzie@gmail.com
To: [Burton, Stevie](#); [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 9:39:30 AM

I support the proposed conservation easement. It will help grizzly bears connect their habitat and benefit other wildlife. This is a great move. Let's see more of this sort of conservation for wildlife!

This e-mail was generated from the 'Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.

From: mjccolorado@gmail.com
To: [Burton, Stevie](#); [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 7:53:56 AM

Thank you. I fully support this. So proud that there are some who care for those who can not speak. I hope we preserve enough for future generations to enjoy the wonders of nature and the animal kingdom

This e-mail was generated from the 'Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.

From: carolwthne@netscape.net
To: [Burton, Stevie](#); [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 7:41:24 AM

This is an excellent project and hope that Vital Ground will continue to support wildlife habitat. I support the conservation easement to protect important wildlife habitat.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.

From: Angel4wf@gmail.com
To: [Burton, Stevie](#); [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment
Date: Monday, February 17, 2020 9:42:12 AM

This is a wonderful and critical conservation effort and needs to be approved! Protections are needed for the grizzly bears, Canada Lynx, Wolverine, and other wide ranging species. The state of Montana is known for its beauty and wildlife. We need to do our part to protect and encourage reestablishing a sustainable grizzly population in the Cabinet Mountains and Yaak River area. Protection of this land from development is critical. Once we allow development that helps to extinguish the wildlife we can never recover. Please allow Vital Ground and FWP to hold and manage the conservation easement that would preclude future residential or commercial development and ensure the property is managed to benefit fish and wildlife habitat in perpetuity.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Wild River Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.



Missoula Office

P.O. Box 1858 | Missoula, Montana 59806 | tel 406.728.9436

www.defenders.org

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
490 Meridian Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901

Submitted electronically at: stevie.burton@mt.gov

Dear Stevie Burton,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Wild River conservation easement project. Defenders of Wildlife (Defenders) is a national non-profit conservation organization founded in 1947 focused on conserving and restoring native species and the habitat upon which they depend. We submit the following comment on behalf of our more than 1.8 million members and supporters nationwide, including more than 5,000 in Montana.

Defenders supports proposed Alternative B of the environmental assessment for the Wild River Conservation Easement Project. Alternative B states that Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks would purchase the approximately 50-acre Wild River conservation easement and Vital Ground will remain in ownership of the property. The project area is part of an important wildlife corridor and would benefit multiple species including the grizzly bear, a species of focus for Defenders work in the region. Projects such as these contribute to long-term resiliency and sustainability of wildlife populations in Montana.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Erin Edge
Rockies and Plains Representative
Defenders of Wildlife
eedge@defenders.org

From: [Birthe Bradt](#)
To: [Burton, Stevie](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wild River Conservation Easement
Date: Saturday, February 15, 2020 5:41:19 PM

Stevie, Thank you for the effort and for the notice for comments on the proposed Wild River Conservation Easement near Troy, MT. Without any doubt this proposal will be a win, win, not only for wildlife, but for the citizens of Montana as well. I assume that wildlife studies have shown that different wildlife species including grizzly bears use this area as a corridor for travel. Birds and small mammals will also benefit from this undeveloped acreage.

My only concern is with how the area will be developed to accommodate fisherman and birdwatchers. I realize that these issues will be addressed with the next phase, and with more public comment. Thanks again for your efforts.

Let's hope things move forward with this easement!

Paul Bradt

Libby

Sent from my iPad